

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 /051 W
-----031101Z 106564 /14

R 030845Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7661
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN, US, MY

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: HAPPY BIRTHDAY SIA AND OTHER MATTERS

REF: A) STATE 96279 B) STATE 94914 C) SINGAPORE 1185
D) KUALA LUMPUR 1396

1. SINGAPORE AIRLINES' 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HAS RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS ATTENTION, WITH MAIN ATTENTION GIVEN TO SIA'S EMERGENCE AS A RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL CARRIER.
2. FESTIVITIES REACHED A PEAK--OF SORTS--OVER THE WEEKEND AS THE WIFE OF SIA CHAIRMAN PILLAY SLICED OPEN A SEVEN-FOOT HIGH CAKE AT AN EMPLOYEES' PARTY (WITH PM LEE KUAN YEW AND WIFE IN ATTENDANCE) TO LIBERATE A (FOR SINGAPORE) SCANTILY-CLAD CHORINE. AS THE STRAITS TIMES COMMENTED, THE EVENT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE SIA'S "GREAT WAY" OF DOING THINGS. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION SIA INTENDS TO CARRY TECHNIQUE OVER TO IN-FLIGHT SERVICE.
3. SIA HAS PUBLICIZED PLANS TO EXPAND ITS FLEET, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO THE ONGOING

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U.S.-SINGAPORE CIVAIR TALKS. THE BLUNTEST COMMENT WAS PILLAY'S MAY 1 REMARK WHILE DISCUSSING "PROTECTIONISM", THAT "EVEN A COUNTRY AS POWERFUL AS THE U.S. IS RELUCTANT TO GIVE US A VIABLE ROUTE TO ITS WEST COAST." PRESS HAS OCCASIONALLY TROTTED OUT FINANCE MINISTER HON'S PARLIAMENTARY REMARKS AS FILLER (REF C).

4. SPEAKING AT THE SIA PARTY, PM LEE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT IN CHANGI AIRPORT WAS MEANT TO INSURE SINGAPORE'S SUCCESS AS AN AIR JUNCTION. "STRATEGIC LOCATION IS NOT ENOUGH, LEE SAID. "IT IS THE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND OUR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY...THAT ENSURE OUR ROLE AS THE CENTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

5. ON OTHER MATTERS, EMBASSY HAS HEARD NOTHING OF PAM AM-SIA TALKS DESCRIBED REF B. NEITHER HAS GOS RESPONDED TO USG INITIATIVE ON NEXT ROUND CIVAIR TALKS, AND EMBASSY, PER REF A, HAS NOT MENTIONED THE TOPIC AGAIN.

6. IN CONVERSATION LAST WEEK, PAN AM REP ARTHUR WEE SAID PAA HAS DECIDED AGAINST ACCEPTING MALAYSIA'S OFFER (REF D) OF PAA SERVICE TO KUALA LUMPUR VIA SABAH. PROPOSED ROUTE, SAID WEE, IS NOT VIABLE.
GRANT

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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